CANTERBURY HINTERLAND PROJECT
January 2015

Dr. Lacey M. Wallace, Research Associate in Roman Archaeology, Faculty of Classics, University of Cambridge, and Post-Doctoral Research Associate, Queens' College, Cambridge, has provided the following information on the Canterbury Hinterland project. For downloads or further information please consult Project website: *http://www.arch.cam.ac.uk/research/projects/canterbury-hinterland*

From: Lacey Wallace <lmw36@cam.ac.uk>
Date: 29 January 2015 11:45:38 GMT
To: Pauline Walters <paulinewalters25@gmail.com>
Subject: 2014 results of Canterbury Hinterland Project

Dear friends of the Canterbury Hinterland Project,

I am writing with the straight-from-the-field 2014 results of the Canterbury Hinterland Project. Archive reports and interpretation will follow in due course. All landowners will receive full reports as soon as possible!

First of all, thank you so much to everyone who made this project possible this year. The weather and equipment mishaps were sometimes really disheartening, but our partners and local friends were able to help and all of the students and volunteers were so positive and resourceful that we still accomplished the season's goals.

We surveyed more than 33.5ha in 540 grids with magnetometry across the four sites (over 21.5ha (in 390 grids) at Bourne Park, 4.7ha (in 52 grids) at Petham, 1.7ha (in 25 extremely fiddly grids!) at Patrixbourne, and 5.6 (in 73 grids) at Ickham). Lieven also undertook ground-penetrating radar at all four sites, providing an enormous amount of extra information for each.

Chris has prepared a Google Earth viewer for his crop mark interpretations, which we will put on the website as soon as possible (there are a few issues with embedding it at the moment). So, do visit the site soon! (https://www.arch.cam.ac.uk/research/projects/canterbury-hinterland)

Once again, we found the landowners and local communities very supportive of the work and keen to provide us with key local knowledge. All three public talks were well-attended, which is encouraging to our outreach activities.

Quick description of the results (see attached PDF for the magnetometry):

At Bourne Park we found probable Iron Age and Roman enclosures continuing down the stream valley, demonstrating that the main focus of the settlement was organised along the stream. Interestingly, the features so clear in the aerial photos were not at all clear in the magnetometry (and vice versa), which means that using both methods together is the only way to interpret the landscape. Between the two branches of the stream closest to Bishopsbourne, alluvial deposition appears to be concealing the features. On the higher land, the known Anglo-Saxon burials were very clear, even if the ring ditches of the barrows visible in aerial photos were not. The cemetery appears to be defined by at least two ditches, although we also found three other ring ditches of probable barrows outside of this area. The burial cuts within those ring ditches are very clear, and their separation may indicate a different date or status. Also on the hill, curvilinear ditches define a possible Iron Age enclosure upon the highest land before the stream crossing in Bridge. Within lies a rectilinear enclosure, which is likely to contain different material that holds moisture better than the surrounding chalk because it was also defined on the surface by a dense area of nettles.

At Patrixbourne, the double rectilinear enclosure visible in the aerial photos, which we thought could be a Romano-Celtic temple, was very clear and contained within it a number of very large pits. If there is a cella within, it is likely to be made of timber as no structure was visible. The GPR showed that the ditches of the enclosure might have masonry at a higher level above their fill, perhaps indicating that the 'temple' was enclosed with stone walls later in its use. The enclosure lies within a larger ditch enclosure that we were not full able to explore, but hopefully will next year.

At Petham, the magnetometry hardly showed the building so apparent in the aerial photos, but the GPR made clear that the ‘walls’ were almost certainly narrow foundation trenches, perhaps beamslots, replaced over time. The L-shaped ditch was, weirdly, actually L-shaped with a break like an entrance. We are still uncertain if this is an ancient site.

At Ickham, we were completely shocked to find a planned complex of enclosures and structures with what look like streets (ditches defining edges of long linear areas). The dense surface material contained large amounts of roof and flue tile, bricks, and later Roman pottery. The GPR showed that one of the buildings (which measured about 42x18m) had an outer and an inner wall with a line of columns running down the middle. There are large rectilinear areas that could be sunken basements or pools, all on the same planned-looking alignments. Some features at divergent angles appear to respect the ‘streets’.

I have attached a PDF to this email showing the magnetometry results (you’ll have to wait for GPR!). These are just quickly exported images without scales, interpretation, etc., just so you can see what we’ve done. The order of the pages is the same as the order of sites in the ‘results’ above. We will be publishing the 2013 and 2014 work at Bourne Park in *Archaeologia Cantiana*, while the other sites need a bit more work before they are ready to be published.

Best wishes, and do respond to me with any ideas or questions!

Best wishes,

Lacey

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